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MEA SUMMONS KOREAN ENVOY OVER HYUNDAI PAK'S TWEET

Ambassador Chang Jae-bok was bluntly told there could be no compromise on matters of territorial integrity, MEA said

KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER DIALS JAISHANKAR

On Tuesday, South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong spoke to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar to express regret over the incident. Meanwhile, Indian ambassador in Seoul contacted the Hyundai headquarters and sought an explanation over the social media post, an MEA spokesperson said, adding that India has sent a tough message

HYUNDAI TERMS POST 'UNAUTHORISED'

- On Sunday, Hyundai Pakistan had tweeted in support of Kashmiri separatists' "struggle for freedom". There was a similar tweet from an account linked to Hyundai's affiliate Kia Corp, too
- Following uproar, Hyundai apologised for the "unauthorised" tweet by its independently-owned distributor in Pakistan

44,022

THE NUMBER OF PASSENGER VEHICLES HYUNDAI SOLD IN INDIA IN JANUARY 2022

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Hijab row turns violent, colleges shut for 3 days

Govt takes decision as protests spread across state; CM says no one should issue provocative statements

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS the hijab row turned violent on Tuesday, the State Government declared a three-day holiday for high schools and colleges. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai appealed to students to maintain peace as the situation threatened to go out of control.

Violence erupted across the state with incidents of stone-throwing, heckling of a girl wearing hijab, hoisting of a saffron flag on college premises, and a large number of students wearing hijabs and saffron shawls taking to streets being reported from many places. The row turned into a law and order situation, even as the Karnataka High Court started hearing petitions challenging college managements' decision to disallow girls wearing hijab from attending classes.

The violence hit the education system even as it was returning to normal and offline classes had started just a few days ago. The students have taken to the streets at a time when they should be preparing for exams, which are two months away.

In Mandya, students wearing saffron shawls gathered outside colleges in the district raising 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans. A hijab-wearing student at PES College in Mandya was heckled by boys, and the college staff had to rush to her rescue. Several girls wearing hijab returned to hostels in fear as students protested outside colleges at Mandya and Pandavapura in the district.

At the Government Degree College at Bapuji Nagar in Shivamogga, miscreants threw stones at students, injuring two of them.

A saffron flag was hoisted in the college by students, while the police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the crowd. Later, prohibitory orders were imposed in the town. In Harihar, police lobbed teargas shells and lathi-charged protesting students, who were indulging in stone-throwing.

The hijab row that started at a college in Udupi district has quickly spread to most parts of the state, including Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Hubballi, Hassan, Kolar, Kodagu and Kalaburgi. Students wearing hijabs and saffron shawls and groups supporting them resorted to protests. As the situation was getting out of control, many colleges declared holidays even before the government made the announcement.

FULL REPORT: P4

A video grab of students hoisting the saffron flag in front of the Government First Grade College in Shivamogga on Tuesday

ISSUE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

Congress MP from Karnataka L Hanumanthaiah raised the hijab row issue in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. Speaking during zero hour, he said that Karnataka is facing intense student protests as girls wearing hijab were not allowed to attend classes. Another MP Naseer Hussain supported him. They alleged that the state government failed to control the situation, which was opposed by BJP members.

Students, public must maintain peace: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court, which on Tuesday took up hearing on pleas over the hijab row in the state, requested the students community and the public at large to maintain peace and tranquility.

"The court has full faith in the wisdom and virtue of the public at large and hopes the same will be put to practice," observed Justice Krishna S Dixit before adjourning further hearing on a batch of petitions to Wednesday.

The court made the request after Advocate General Prabhuling Navadagi submitted that trouble is brewing both inside and outside the campuses of several educational institutions though the court is hearing the arguments of both the sides in the matter.

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, representing the students in a petition questioning the Government Order of February 5, mandating uniforms in school and college premises, argued broadly in agreement with the Advocate General. However, he opposed a blanket order against all agitators who are not party to the petition.

Justice Dixit observed that if a mischievous section wants to create trouble by taking up agitation on the streets, shouting slogans, attacking others, such acts will not influence the court. "I make a sincere request to all people to have faith in the Constitution", he said. CONTINUED ON: P4

WHO IS PROMISING WHAT

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY	SAMAJWADI PARTY
Free travel to women over 60 years of age	Farmers to be made debt-free by 2025
To double the number of women workforce in UPPSC and other govt jobs	Families of farmers killed during farm agitation will get ₹25 lakh each
Modernisation of 30,000 secondary schools and colleges	Urban employment guarantee Act to be brought in on the lines of the MGNREGS
At least one job/job opportunity to each family	₹36,000 one-time dole to girls clearing Class 12 Boards
Filling of all vacancies in govt sector	Samajwadi Pension Yojana of ₹18,000 per annum for 1 crore families
Hiring 6,000 doctors, 10,000 para meds	Samajwadi Canteen to offer ₹10 thali
Medical college in each district	

SP vows to make UP farmers debt-free, BJP promises 3 crore jobs

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

TWO days before the first vote is cast in the Uttar Pradesh elections, the ruling BJP and the Samajwadi Party, the biggest players in the ring, promised loads of freebies primarily targeted at farmers, women and the marginalised sections. The BJP, of course, garnished its offering with Hindutva.

In all, the BJP's manifesto had 130 promises as against 200 in 2017, 92% of which it claimed it had fulfilled.

Both parties courted farmers in a big way, the BJP to tamp down their anger and the SP to maximise its agrarian vote potential. Both offered free power for cultivation, the minimum support price regime and payment to cane farmers within a fortnight. The SP went many paces ahead to promise making farmers debt-free by 2025.

Similarly, both parties offered two LPG cylinders free for each connection every year, with the BJP specifying when they will be provided—on Holi and Diwali, injecting a subtle Hindutva element.

To counter the narrative of soaring unemployment, the BJP promised three crore jobs, including a job to a member of each family, in the next five years. P9

River-linking: State to file objections with ministry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state government will file objections with the Jal Shakti Ministry, asking it not to go ahead with the river-linking project till Karnataka's share is determined. They have also decided to oppose Tamil Nadu's Cauvery-Vaugai-Gundar river-linking and Hogenakkal projects in the court.

After meeting legal experts handling inter-state water disputes, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told the media in New Delhi on Tuesday that the state government has decided to file objections given the announcement in the union budget, though they had registered their reservations earlier too.

"We will file objections with the Jal Shakti Ministry asking it not to go ahead with the river-linking projects till our share is determined," Bommai said.

The CM had also taken it up during his meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday. "I have made it clear that all states should agree and only then can it be taken up," he said and added that the government will not compromise on the state's interest in the project. P5

EXPRESS READ

Indian docu makes it to Oscars

New Delhi: Indian documentary 'Writing With Fire' has been nominated in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 94th edition of the Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars. Directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, both debutants, the documentary chronicles the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India's only newspaper run by Dalit women.

Retired IAF officer, wife murdered

Bengaluru: A 70-year-old retired Indian Air Force officer and his 63-year-old wife were found murdered at their villa in Bidadi, near Ramanagara, on Tuesday. The prime suspect is a man who took care of the couple's dog, and was on the premises. A native of Bihar, he is said to have escaped after security guards found the bodies in two bedrooms on Tuesday afternoon. P3

NATION WIDE	FEB 7	FEB 8
Fresh cases	83,876	67,597
Recoveries	1,99,054	1,30,158
Deaths	895	1,188

KARNATAKA	FEB 7	FEB 8
Fresh cases	6,358	4,452
Recoveries	16,802	19,067
Deaths	49	51

Techies refuse to lift mouse, drop plough

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

AS the Covid third wave is ebbing, companies that had allowed employees to work from home have been asking them to report back to office. But many in Gadag district, like in other parts of the state, are refusing to return as they have found new love in agriculture, got themselves adjusted to the laid-back rural life and want to remain close to their extended families.

When the Covid horror started unspooling in early 2020, many high-earning professionals and labourers returned to their hometowns. While some took to farming, others started shops and hotels.

Santosh Mudgal from Pethalur village, who is a software engineer at an MNC in Bengaluru, said, "I am happy here and planning to settle down here. I want to continue as a farmer. Over the last two years, I have planted 500 coconuts and 500 lemons trees on our land."

CONTINUED ON: P5

AhaGuru for Class 8th to 12th

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